MULTIMEDIA UNIVERSITY

STUDENT ID NO

MULTIMEDIA UNIVERSITY

FINAL EXAMINATION

TRIMESTER 3, 2017/2018

PGP1010 ENGLISH FOR GENERAL PURPOSES

(All sections)

1 JUNE 2018

9.00 a.m. – 11.00 a.m.

(2 hours)

INSTRUCTIONS TO STUDENTS

1. This question paper consists of **FOURTEEN** pages with **TWO** sections only.
2. Answer **ALL** questions.
3. Write **ALL** your answers in the question paper.

SECTION A: READING COMPREHENSION [30 MARKS]

Instructions: For each question, choose the most appropriate answer. Shade your answers for questions 1-30 on the **OMR** sheet provided in the question paper.

Questions 1 to 7 are based on the following passage.

In Pursuit of Thinness

1 Throughout history and through a cross-section of cultures, women have transformed their appearance to conform to a beauty ideal. Ancient Chinese aristocrats bound their feet as a show of femininity; American and European women in the 1800s cinched in their waists so tightly, some suffered internal damage; in some African cultures women continue to wear plates in their lower lips, continually stretching the skin to receive plates of larger size. The North American ideal of beauty has continually focussed on women's bodies: the tiny waist of the Victorian period, the boyish figure in vogue during the flapper era, and the voluptuous curves that were the measure of beauty between the 1930s and 1950s. Current standards emphasize a toned, slender look, one that exudes fitness, youth, and health. According to psychologist Eva Szekely, "Having to be attractive at this time means unequivocally having to be thin. In North America today, thinness is a precondition for being perceived by others and oneself as healthy". However, this relentless pursuit of thinness is not just an example of women trying to look their best, it is also a struggle for control, acceptance and success.

2 In attempting to mould their appearance to meet the current ideal, numerous women are literally starving themselves to death. The incidence of eating disorders, such as anorexia nervosa and bulimia, has "doubled during the last two decades". This increase is no longer limited to women in their teens and twenties, but is increasingly diagnosed in patients in their thirties and forties. No doubt, the current sociocultural emphasis on thinness and physical fitness as a symbol of beauty and success has contributed to this age distribution.

3 One of the negative psychological side effects associated with eating disorders is the patient's distortion of their own body image. Body image being defined as the picture a person has in his mind of his own body, that is, the way his body appears to him. For the anorexic this distortion is exaggerated, the patient feels fat even while emaciated, however, many women who are caught up in the relentless pursuit of thinness also experience some degree of disturbed body image. The experiences and practices of women who "simply diet" are not radically different from those who are diagnosed with eating disorders. For some women, achieving the "perfect" body form becomes the most important goal in life.

4 Feelings about body are closely related to a woman's sense of self; the body is perceived as acceptable or unacceptable. It is alarming that almost 80% of women think they are overweight. Body image has very little to do with the way a person actually looks; many women who appear to fit the ideal body type are actually dissatisfied with their appearance. Women with perfectly normal bodies see themselves as being heavy; so that the definition of "normal" becomes inaccurate and this perceived normalcy is represented by a very small percentage of women. It follows that if body image is so closely linked to self-image, it is important for women to learn to feel comfortable with the body they live in, despite any

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"imperfections". Consistently aiming for perfection is a self-defeating goal that only sets them up for failure.

All evidence indicates that our sense of our bodies develops in the process of learning, and these are social processes, not psychobiological ones given at birth. So why is it that during this process of development so many women become dissatisfied, self-critical, and judgemental about their own bodies? One of the reasons may have to do with the media and various forms of advertising. Advertisements sell more than just products; they present an idea of normalcy, who we are and who we should be. Advertising is a major vehicle for presenting images and forming attitudes. The majority of ads incorporate young, beautiful, slender models to present their products and services. While individual ads may not be seen as a big issue, it is the cumulative, unconscious impact that has an effect on attitudes toward women, and in women's attitudes toward themselves. As women are consistently exposed to these feminine forms thorough both print and television, it becomes difficult to distinguish what is normal, and even more difficult not to compare themselves to this form. It is not only just women who judge themselves, but also men who begin to liken these models to the women in their own lives and then make comparisons. Advertising creates an ultimate standard of worth, so that women are judged against this standard all the time, whether we choose to be or not.

Adapted from In pursuit of thinness. (2007). Retrieved from https://www.customessaymeister.com/customessays/Eating%20Disorders/13488.htm

1. Based on the passage, thinness is not a reflection of beauty and success in a woman's life.
   A. True
   B. False
   C. Not stated

2. According to the passage, the effort to look thin has resulted in increased business in advertising business.
   A. True
   B. False
   C. Not stated

3. A person diagnosed with anorexia nervosa always perceives herself as fat although she has become very thin.
   A. True
   B. False
   C. Not stated.

4. Women who have negative ideas about their body image are continually dissatisfied with their bodies.
   A. True
   B. False
   C. Not stated

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5. Advertisements are largely to be blamed for women's endless struggle to be thin due to the following EXCEPT _____ .
   A. they make products appealing and attractive
   B. they present an idea of what is normal and acceptable in society
   C. men begin to compare models in advertisements to women in their lives
   D. women will always compare themselves to the young, beautiful and slim models they see in advertisements

6. Which of the following statements is not true about advertisements?
   A. They present an idea of normalcy.
   B. They do not simply sell products; they present images and influence attitudes.
   C. They create an ultimate standard, against which women are constantly judged.
   D. They deliberately portray beautiful women to encourage other women to slim down and become beautiful.

7. The message in this passage is about how _____.
   A. women should go through all means, harmful or not, to be thin and beautiful
   B. society must be blamed for the high incidence of eating disorders among women
   C. women struggle to be thin because that is the only area in life they are in control of
   D. women should begin to accept themselves for who they are regardless of the way they look

Questions 8 to 15 are based on the following passage.

1 Thick black smoke curling out of smokestacks, horrible-tasting chemicals in your drinking water and pesticides in your food are examples of pollution. Pollution is any contamination of the environment which causes harm to the environment or the inhabitants of the environment. There are many kinds of pollution, and there are many pollutants. Some obvious kinds of pollution are pollution of the air, soil, and water. Some less **salient** kinds of pollution are radioactive, noise, light pollution, and green-house gases.

2 Air pollution can be caused by particles, liquids, or gases that make the air harmful to breathe. There are two main types of air pollution: primary and secondary. Primary pollutants enter the air directly, like smoke from factories and car exhaust. Secondary pollutants are chemicals that mix together to pollute the air, like mixtures of emissions or waste output from vehicles and factory smoke that change to form more dangerous pollutants in the air and sunlight.

3 Soil pollution can be caused by pesticides, leakage from chemical tanks, oil spills, and other chemicals which get into the soil by dumping or accidental contamination. Soil pollution can also cause water pollution when underground water becomes contaminated by coming into contact with the polluted soil.

4 Water pollution can be caused by waste products, sewage, oil spills, and litter in streams, rivers, lakes, and oceans. Some scientists believe that water pollution is the largest cause of death and disease in the world, causing about 14,000 deaths in the world each day.

5 Radioactive pollution can be caused by leaks or spills of radioactive materials. These materials can come from medical sources, nuclear power plants, or laboratories which handle radioactive materials. Air, soil, and water can be polluted

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by radioactivity. It can cause damage to animals, both internally and externally, by eating, drinking, or touching it. It can cause birth defects and genetic problems. It can cause certain cancers and other deadly diseases.

6 Noise pollution can be caused by vehicle, aircraft, and industrial noise. It can also be caused by military or experimental sonar. Noise has health effects on people and animals. In people, it can cause high blood pressure, heart problems, sleep disturbances, and hearing problems. In animals, it can cause communication, reproductive, and navigation problems – they have difficulty finding their direction. Sonar has even caused whales to beach themselves because they respond to the sonar as if it were another whale.

7 Light pollution can be caused by advertising signs, stadium and city lighting, and other artificial lighting. Artificial lighting has health effects on humans and animals. In people, it can cause high blood pressure and affect sleeping and waking rhythms and immunity. It might be a factor in some cancers, such as breast cancer. In animals, it can affect sleeping and waking rhythms, navigation, and reproduction.

8 In addition, greenhouse gases have caused a warming effect on the earth's climate. The greenhouse gases are water vapor, carbon dioxide, methane, and ozone. They are naturally-occurring gases in the atmosphere but human activity has increased their concentration in the atmosphere. For example, the levels of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere have risen due to the burning of fossil fuels. The effect is a rise in global temperatures. The higher temperatures cause the melting of glaciers, a rise in the water level of oceans, and the disruption of both land and marine life, including that of humans. Although carbon dioxide is necessary for plants to survive, it is also considered to be a kind of pollution because high levels of carbon dioxide have caused the oceans to become more acidic.

9 It is not possible for anyone to forecast the exact timing and effects of global pollution and global climate change brought about by pollution. There is general agreement by scientists that the global climate will continue to change, that the intensity of weather effects will continue to increase, and that some species of animals will become extinct. There is also general agreement, or consensus, that humans need to take steps to reduce emissions of waste products and greenhouse gases into the atmosphere, adapt to the changes that are occurring, and figure out ways of reversing the trends of pollution and global warming.

Adapted from Global pollution. (n. d.). Retrieved from http://www.englishforeveryone.org

8. The word **salient** (line 6) can best be replaced by _____ .
   A. necessary
   B. incredible
   C. noticeable
   D. dangerous

9. Which of the following ideas is mentioned in paragraph 4?
   A. About 14,000 people die every day.
   B. Other types of pollution do not cause death.
   C. Many people die after drinking polluted water.
   D. Water pollution can cause not more than 14,000 deaths every day.

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10. Radioactive pollution can be caused by leaks or spills of radioactive materials. The following can be polluted by radioactivity EXCEPT
    A. air.
    B. soil.
    C. noise.
    D. water.

11. People who are frequently exposed to noise pollution may possibly suffer from the following health problems EXCEPT
    A. heart problems.
    B. internal bleeding.
    C. sleep disturbances.
    D. high blood pressure.

12. In big cities like New York and Tokyo, the night skies are too bright for the people on the streets to see the twinkling stars. This phenomenon is probably caused by
    A. radioactivity.
    B. artificial lighting.
    C. greenhouse gases.
    D. experimental sonar.

13. According to the passage, which of the following types of pollution can possibly cause cancer?
    i. Light pollution
    ii. Noise pollution
    iii. Water pollution
    iv. Radioactive pollution

    A. i and iv
    B. ii and iii
    C. i, ii and iv
    D. i, iii and iv

14. All of these statements are true about the passage EXCEPT
    A. Radioactive pollution is classified as secondary pollution.
    B. Adequate amount of carbon dioxide in the air is essential for plants to survive.
    C. Man-made lighting can cause a person to experience insomnia and weaker body defense system.
    D. Radioactive materials should be handled with extra caution to avoid accidental contamination.

15. The last paragraph indicates that
    A. the effects of global pollution cannot be forecasted by scientists.
    B. scientists have a general agreement to forecast the global climate change.
    C. people do not have to agree with scientists on the exact timing of global climate change.
    D. the extinction of some species of animals is caused by acclimatization of the animals to the global climate change.

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Questions 16 to 23 are based on the following passage.

1 We had now reached the beginnings of the Empty Quarter. All around, the country presented a dismal picture. Dead trees lay fallen and half-buried in the drifting sands. Everything was still. Nothing **stirred**, not even a lizard. Ahead lay a journey of 600 kilometres, across lifeless sands, in temperatures that can soar to 50 degrees during the day, and drop to 7 degrees in the night. I had heard of travellers returning from the desert sands, speaking through blackened, bleeding lips of the dreadful isolation and emptiness they had endured, and the agonising thirst they had suffered. I heard tales of how others had become walking skeletons of men, how their camels moaned for water which was not there, until eventually men and beasts sank down in the sands to die.

2 That evening I discussed the crossing with my four Bedouin companions who were going to be following and guiding me through the journey. Muhammad was their leader, an experienced guide who had travelled through the Empty Quarter two years earlier. Our limited food supply was the main problem. My companions had been too free in their hospitality to travellers we had met on our way to the desert. A month's journey lay ahead of us and that would mean only a quarter of a kilo of flour for each man per day. As for water, we could probably carry enough to last for twenty days. However, the camels would be waterless throughout that time, and twenty days was the very limit camels could go without water. After that, we would have to start looking for wells. If we did not find any, the camels would collapse. It was not their own hunger or thirst that my Bedouin companions feared. They could ride for days without food and water, and still survive, they claimed. It was the collapse of the camels they feared most. If this happened, death was certain for all of us.

3 The next morning, we loaded up the animals and started our journey across the sands. It was not long before we encountered the first of the dunes or hills of sand, some of which rose 150 metres above the desert floor. We made our way slowly up one of them, with Muhammad finding a path for the leading camel, which was carrying the largest of our water-skins. Going down the other side, this leading camel hesitated and after a while veered off line. Its head-rope, which was attached to the other camels, tightened. As it grew tauter, the rope pulled the leading camel over to one side. Because I was following behind, I could see what was going to happen. I shouted frantically to Muhammad, who was now further down the slope, but either he could not see what was happening or he was unable to halt the camel on the steep slope. They just kept on moving forward. Even as I watched, she collapsed on top of the water-skins, squashing them beneath her.

4 Immediately, Muhammad was slashing at the head-rope. If the water-skins had burst, our journey across the Empty Quarter was as good as over. The fallen camel kicked out and heaved herself to her knees. The water-skins on her back still seemed to be full. Hardly daring to hope, I bent over them as Muhammad said, "Praise be to God. They are all right!" We loaded them on to the bull camel at the rear, trusting that his greater strength would be a safeguard in the slithering descents below.

5 Day after day we struggled through and over the sand hills, often wasting hours in skirting great mountains of sand, some of them nearly 200 metres high. One evening, when we stopped for our meal, we checked the precious contents of our water-skins; there had been a regular and alarming drip from the skins throughout the

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day. It was like the dangerous loss of blood from a wound that could not be closed. Although we longed for sleep, we had to continue our journey while the water was still holding out. After riding for another two hours, we were shivering uncontrollably in the cold night air. We would have given anything for a hot drink, but we knew that we must wait eighteen hours for our next ration of water. Finally, we stopped for the night; yet we slept little, for our thirst never left us, and we were worried about our precious water dripping away on to the sand.

Adapted from McAllister, H. (1973) The Crossing in Muller, G.H. & Wiener, H. S. *The short prose reader.* McGraw-Hill: New York.

16. The synonym for **stirred** (line 3) is
A. bored
B. moved
C. excited
D. motivated

17. What evidence from paragraph 1 shows the country as being a dismal place?
A. The journey was too far.
B. The Empty Quarter had no beginnings.
C. Not even a lizard stirred on the desert sand.
D. The sands were full of fallen and half-buried dead trees.

18. Why were the Bedouins not afraid of their own hunger or thirst?
A. They had enough food supply.
B. They knew how to find water wells.
C. They had a quarter of a kilo of flour for each man.
D. They thought they could ride for days without food and water.

19. What did the Bedouins fear most?
A. The lack of food.
B. The dearth of water.
C. The death of the camels.
D. The death of their Bedouin companions.

20 On the first day of their journey, the travellers encountered _____.
A. a 150-metre high sand hill
B. wild animals across the sands
C. the death of one of their camels
D. Muhammad above the desert floor

21. Who carried the largest of the water-skins?
A. The author
B. Muhammad
C. The bull camel
D. The leading camel

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22. What did the travellers discover when they stopped for their meal one evening?
A. They saw more and more sand hills ahead of them.
B. They found that their water-skins were leaking.
C. They saw 200 metres high mountains of sand.
D. They found that one of the companions was losing blood.

23. Why did they hardly sleep, as mentioned in line 52, "Yet we slept little"?
A. They were craving for hot drinks.
B. The night was cold and uncomfortable.
C. They were afraid of not having enough food.
D. They were very worried about their water supply.

*Questions **24** to **30** are based on the following passage.*

1 A very important world problem, if not the most serious of all the great world problems which affect us at the moment, is the increasing number of people who actually inhabit this planet. The limited amount of land and land resources will soon be unable to support the huge population if it continues to grow at its present rate.

2 In an early survey conducted in 1888, a billion and a half people inhabited the earth. Now, the population exceeds five billion and is growing fast - by the staggering figure of 9 billion in 1988 alone. This means that the world must accommodate a new population roughly equal to that of the United States and Canada every three years! Even though the rate of growth has begun to slow down, most experts believe the population size will still pass nine billion during the next 50 years.

3 So why is this huge increase in population taking place? It is really due to the spread of the knowledge and practice of what is becoming known as "Death Control". It recognizes the work of the doctors and scientists who now keep alive people who, not very long ago, would have died of a variety of then incurable diseases. Through a wide variety of technological innovations that include farming methods and sanitation, as well as the control of these deadly diseases, we have found ways to reduce the rate at which we die - creating a population explosion. We used to think that reaching seventy years old was a remarkable achievement, but now *eighty or even ninety is becoming recognized as the normal life-span for humans.* However, this success is the very cause of the greatest threat to mankind.

4 If we examine the amount of land available for this ever-increasing population, we begin to see the problem. If everyone on the planet had an equal share of land, we would each have about 50000 square metres. However, not all land is useful to humans as it cannot produce food. We can cut out about one fifth of it because it is permanently covered by snow and ice. Then we can cut out another fifth because it is desert. Another fifth is too mountainous or is too great a height above sea-level. A tenth doesn't have enough soil for crops to grow - it is bare rock. *Now the position begins to look rather more bleak!*

5 Obviously, with so little land to support us, we should be taking great care not to reduce it further. But are we? Mankind seems to be unable to accept that we live on a finite planet - we act as if its resources were infinite. Because of overpopulation and over-consumption, humanity is incapable of supporting itself on

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its "income" - the energy arriving continuously from the sun. Instead, we are consuming its "capital" - its nonrenewable fossil fuels and other mineral deposits that took millions of years to form but which are now being destroyed in decades. We are also doing the same with other vital resources not usually thought of as being nonrenewable such as fertile soils, groundwater and the millions of other species that share earth with us.

6 Man is constantly destroying the very resources which keep him alive. He is destroying the balance of nature which regulates climate and the atmosphere, produces and maintains healthy soils, provides food from the seas, etc. In short, by only considering our needs of today, we are ensuring there will be no tomorrow.

An understanding of man's effect on the balance of nature is crucial to be able to find the appropriate remedial action. It is a very common belief that the problems of the population explosion are caused mainly by poor people living in poor countries who do not know enough to limit their reproduction. However, this is not true. The actual number of people in an area is not as important as the effect they have on nature. Developing countries do have an effect on their environment, but it is the populations of richer countries that have a far greater impact on the earth as a whole.

7 The birth of a baby, for example, in Hong Kong, imposes more than a hundred times the amount of stress on the world's resources as a baby in India. Most people in India do not grow up to own cars or air-conditioners - nor do they eat the huge amount of meat and fish that the Hong Kong child does. *Their* life-styles do not require vast quantities of minerals and energy. Also, they are aware of the requirements of the land around them and try to put something back into nature to replace what they take out.

8 Tropical forests are known to be essential to the balance of nature yet we are destroying them at an incredible rate. They are being cleared not to benefit the natives of that country, but to satisfy the needs of richer countries. Central American forests are being destroyed for pastureland to make cheaper pet food in the United States. In Papua New Guinea, forests are destroyed to supply cheaper cardboard packaging for Japanese electronic products. In Burma and Thailand, forests have been destroyed to produce more attractive furniture in Singapore and Hong Kong. Therefore, a rich person living thousands of miles away may cause more tropical forest destruction than a poor person living in the forest itself.

9 In short then, it is everybody's duty to safeguard the future of mankind - not only through population control, but by being more aware of the effect his actions have on nature. Nature is both fragile and powerful. It is very easily destroyed; on the other hand, it can so easily destroy its most aggressive enemy - man.

Adapted from The world population. (n.d.) Retrived from http://wenku.baidu.com/view/c7fe02124531b90d6c85ec3a87c24028915f85b9.html?review

24. The main purpose of paragraph 2 is to _____ .
A. stress how large the world population is today
B. give a brief history of the growth in world population
C. emphasise how quickly the world population is rising
D. put forward the argument that the world population has to be reduced

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25. Which of the following is the closest in meaning to "*eighty or even ninety is becoming recognized as the normal life-span for humans*" (line 20)?
    A. On average, people now live to be over eighty.
    B. Nowadays, it is not normal for people to die younger than eighty.
    C. Average life expectancy is increasingly being considered to be eighty or more.
    D. We should recognise that people now live to between eighty and ninety on average.

26. What can be inferred from this expression? "*Now the picture begins to look rather bleak!*" (line 28 - 29)?
    A. The situation now looks more serious.
    B. The amount of productive land available is falling.
    C. There is more than enough land for everyone on earth.
    D. There is no more land left for farming and agricultural activities.

27. The writer claims it is commonly believed that _____.
    A. people from poor countries produce too many goods
    B. poor people in undeveloped countries have too many children
    C. in undeveloped countries, poor people cannot reproduce enough
    D. there are too many poor and uneducated people in some parts of the world

28. The writer's main purpose in paragraph 7 is to argue that _____.
    A. children in Hong Kong causes more stress than children in India
    B. children in Hong Kong consume too much of the world's resources
    C. children in Hong Kong generally have more impact on nature than others
    D. children in Hong Kong are generally better off than children born in India

29. The pronoun "*Their*" in line 55 refers to _____.
    A. babies in India
    B. the world's resources
    C. babies in Hong Kong
    D. cars and air-conditioners

30. Based on the information given in the passage, the writer would probably recommend _____.
    A. restricting population worldwide and increasing the use of nonrenewable resources
    B. encouraging people worldwide to have fewer children and to behave in a more responsible way towards nature
    C. increasing food and industrial production, and encouraging people in undeveloped countries to have fewer children
    D. improving education about the environment and banning the export of wood products from poor to rich countries

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MCQ Answer Sheet

1. (A) (B) (C) (D)
2. (A) (B) (C) (D)
3. (A) (B) (C) (D)
4. (A) (B) (C) (D)
5. (A) (B) (C) (D)
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17. (A) (B) (C) (D)
18. (A) (B) (C) (D)
19. (A) (B) (C) (D)
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24. (A) (B) (C) (D)
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26. (A) (B) (C) (D)
27. (A) (B) (C) (D)
28. (A) (B) (C) (D)
29. (A) (B) (C) (D)
30. (A) (B) (C) (D)

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SECTION B: WRITING (20 MARKS)

Instructions:. You are advised to spend about **50 minutes** on this task. Write at least **350 words** on the following topic. Support your opinion with examples

The most valuable thing in life is 'wealth'. Do you agree with the statement?

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